

September 2007

(www.k7id.com)

P.O. Box 5222 Coeur d'Alene, ID 83816

**REGULAR  
CLUB MEETINGS:**

**Monday, September 10**  
 Sheprock Building  
 7:00 to 9:00 P.M.  
 Speakers: Larry Telles K6SPP  
 Program: Principles of Direction  
 Finding and Transmitter Hunting  
 Techniques.  
 Refreshments: Gabbee Perry

**Monday, October 8**  
 Sheprock Building  
 7:00 to 9:00 P.M.  
 Speakers: Verizon and Time  
 Warner Engineers.  
 Program: DSL vs. Cable  
 Internet Server  
 Refreshments: Bonnie Kesson

**Circle your Calendar!!!**

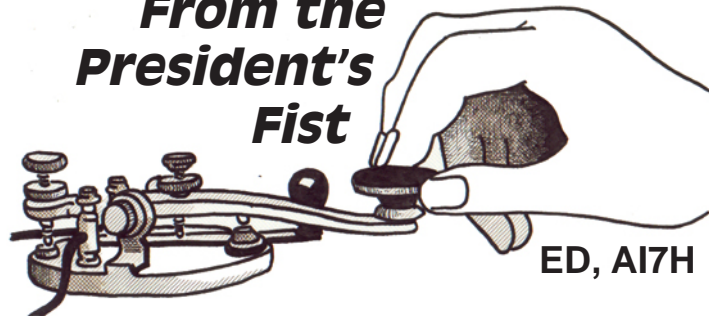
September 22, 2007  
 The Spokane Hamfest  
[www.n7cfo.com/amradio/hf/hf.htm](http://www.n7cfo.com/amradio/hf/hf.htm)

September 29, 2007  
 Highway Cleanup  
 See info in this newsletter.

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**From the  
President's  
Fist**



**ED, AI7H**

**Back to Business**

Greetings to Club members and friends,

First I would like to thank our Club Ice Cream Social hosts Bob (K7CGA) and Bonnie (KE7FPA) Kesson, for opening their home to the horde of ice cream eaters a few weeks ago. Everyone enjoyed ice cream with pot-luck dessert items provided by Club members and friends. Our three living Charter Members – Verda (K7UBC), Marj (WB7WUB), and Walt (K7ETJ) were there, and told a few interesting tales about the early days of KARS. It was really a nice event and we hope to do it again next year!



There is one “outside business” event remaining for the year – Highway Cleanup. (For new Club members and those who have forgotten, KARS is the proud Adopt-A-Highway program “owner” of two miles of I-90 just east of Coeur D’Alene. We conduct a cleanup twice a year, in spring and fall). The scheduled date for the next Highway Cleanup session is Saturday, 09/29. Event coordinator Ed Hannigan (KE7FOW) needs volunteers to tackle this job for a few hours. This is one of those rare programs that offers a “free lunch” afterward (courtesy of the Club). We will have more details about Highway Cleanup at our next Club meeting on 09/10.

Now for some “inside business”: It’s getting to be that time of year again! At the September Club meeting, I will call for the formation of a future officers Nominating Committee. The committee will consist of three members – one chosen by the Membership; one by the Board of Directors; and one by the President. Once the

(continued on page 2)

Committee has been chosen, they will develop a "Slate" of prospective officers for the 2008 year. The prospective officers will be announced in the November issue of this newsletter. The following offices will be up for election: President, Executive Vice President, Executive Director, Secretary, and Treasurer. If you want to read more about this, please go to the Club web site, [www.k7id.com](http://www.k7id.com). Scroll down the left side of the Home Page to "upcoming events", then click on "Constitution/Bylaws". You will want to read pages 7 thru 11 to understand the details of Officer duties and Club elections.

73 to all,  
Ed Stuckey, AI7H, Club President



## *"Pump up the Tires?"*

### September Is National Preparedness Month

RACES doesn't mean bicycle races...or does it? "September is National Preparedness Month and Amateur Radio operators are joining a wide variety of national, state and local organizations, including the US Department of Homeland Security, in educating the public about preparing for emergencies. When unexpected natural or man-made emergencies occur, our greatest individual defense is preparedness says the ARRL". "Getting an emergency supply kit, making an emergency plan, and identifying preparedness and response resources within our communities are several things we can do to prepare ourselves." "This nationwide effort is to encourage individuals and families to take simple steps to prepare for emergencies in their homes, businesses, and schools."



Free preparedness resources are just a click away" <<http://www.ready.gov>>. That's why way back in January your Board felt that the art and fun of *transmitter hunting* has been a neglected activity for too many years. Randy Carlson KB6YAV gave it a try several years ago but failed to achieve critical mass (hysteria) over the fun of chasing a radio (rabbit) through hill and dale. The process is, for sure, initially a fun activity based on a very serious capability e.g. being able to find a whole series of radio transmitters that might be in the hands of distressed people needing help. Not all services provide this capability or a skilled group of "fox-hunters" with precision equipment for triangulation and on-site identification of systems as simple as a FRS transceiver or as sophisticated as an ELT or yes...even a cell phone when it is an emergency. Whatever the media, the skills are the same and they are **not honed on the day they are needed**. I look forward to Larry Telles K6SPP presentation on transmitter hunting with a new twist. team work! – N7JU

# LOGBOOK

## VE Examinations:

**Testing for September will be September 10th. Starting at 5:30m PM until 7:00PM** at the Sheprock Building CDA airport by appointment, call N7JU at 208-765-5470 or e-mail [n7ju@arrl.net](mailto:n7ju@arrl.net) for your appointment. Bring a photo ID, a check to the ARRL in the amount of \$14.00, and a copy of your current FCC license if you are upgrading. Renewals and COA's for ARRL members is free.

**Special Licensing Notes:** If you passed the Technician exam before there was a no-code Technician, you actually passed the General Class exam and will now qualify for an upgrade if you have a copy of your old license showing you as a straight Technician Class. The reason is that you would also have had to take the 5 WPM code test. New rules allow an upgrade to General with no new exam if you can prove you were licensed as a Technician.

### SPOKANE, WA

Register to test in Spokane this month by calling **Mary, AA7RT** at 509-991-2192 or e-mail [aa7rt@arrl.net](mailto:aa7rt@arrl.net) for dates, locations and times.

### DIRECTIONS TO KARS MEETING:

Take U.S. Highway 95 to Miles Avenue (Miles is about 1 mile North of Hayden Avenue). Go West on Miles to airport gate. Gate requires access code (call Ed, KARS President at area code 208 699-7743). Once past gate bear left to the Shep Rock Building.

# HIGHWAY CLEANUP

The second highway cleanup of the year will be on Saturday, September 29, 2007, same place, same time and hopefully same people plus a few more.

We need a few drivers to cruise the area and distribute bags and pick up people. Only cross I-90 at over ramps since the break in the center section is only for emergency vehicles. You are risking your life and a large fine if you use these breaks.

Please email me if you plan on attending.

Ed Hannigan KE7FOW  
naginnah@icehouse.net

# FOR SALE

**Kenwood TS-50 HF Transceiver** – All Mode SSB/CW/AM/FM, with a General Coverage Receiver 500kHz to 30MHz., with a **YK-107C 500 Hz. CW Filter**, 160M to 10M (also 30,17,and 12M) **100 Watts output** adj. **MC-80 Desk microphone.**, MC-34S hand microphone, PG-2x DC power cable and MB-13 mounting bracket. Instruction book, schematics, and *mods/dk data sheets*.

Also:

PSK31/interface for TS-50 to computer, Radio Works (Short 66') Windom for 80 through 10, MFJ mini 150W antenna tuner. Great value with all these options...

compare prices. good condition \$550.  
Call **N7JU** at 208-765-5470

**COFFEE & DONUTS  
EVERY WEDNESDAY MORNING**



**8:00 A.M.  
TIL  
10:00 A.M.**

**RATHDRUM  
SUPER ONE**

**All problems solved at the table on a  
maximum of two napkins.**

# THE WORLD ACCORDING TO JOHN

## ARC Background and Credit Checks Rejected by the ARRL

Well it sure took the ARRL long enough to come up with what KARS members knew six months ago. It will be a very cold day in Kootenai County when a majority of our members would ever agree to submit to background, credit, and *mode of living checks* to volunteer for the American Red Cross. In fact as things go, our new friend and advocate for sanity over there, Karen Vollmer, was unceremoniously sacked with never so much as a thank you or a small bag lunch with her amateur radio friends. She was replaced by a fellow selected from Boise, who incidentally almost “T-boned” me on 15<sup>th</sup> Street a week or so ago turning right on red in his courtesy-car donated by a dealership in Lewiston. I wonder if the dealership realizes that their ARC contribution is here and not doing their image much good there unless you want to drive Lewistown to buy a car. Or maybe he saw my call letters on my Subaru and just wanted to say hello.

If you are detecting a bit of discontent by this situation you are right. Karen made it clear that she did not support the National ARC personal check policy and felt it would endanger the strong support that amateur radio has played with the Red Cross for decades. The ARRL felt the same way but their frequent meetings with the *mucks* at National got nowhere. Karen also was our honored KARS speaker earlier this year addressing this issue resulting in the largest attendance of record for a KARS meeting. Her proposal to us was apparently approved by National when she suggested another way to render our services effective. But to no avail. Personally? There will be no *We Give* sticker on my front door for quite some time and I’d be curious to know long it will take before Mr. New Guy (over at Karen’s office) realizes what Amateur Radio is all about.

A major concern at the ARRL Board of Directors meeting last month was this very issue long overdue for a decision. The Ad Hoc Background Investigation Committee agreed that

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pursuing federally recognized credentialing for Amateur Radio volunteers may be necessary for some ARES functions. The Committee chairman, ARRL Atlantic Division Director Bill Edgar, N3LLR, proposed that the Board adopt a policy with regard to Memoranda of Understanding with the various agencies served. Karen proposed this back in March! The Board adopted a policy that “communications volunteers participating in ARRL-sponsored programs should not be required by served agencies to undergo background investigations **of any kind,**” but notes that criminal background checks—performed by law enforcement agencies—are “generally acceptable.” The policy continues, “It is not reasonable for a served agency to require these volunteers to consent to credit checks, mode of living investigations or investigative consumer reports. In negotiating or renegotiating Memoranda of Understanding that commits the ARRL to provide volunteer emergency communications support, the League must be assured that these volunteers **will not be required by the partner organization to consent to credit checks, mode of living investigations or investigative consumer reports.**” Lets hear it for the American Radio Relay League (and Karen Vollmer, where ever she might wind up)– N7JU

### **This is no drill!**

My friend on site, Bradley Hanson, sent me these and a few other photos of the recent Minnesota bridge collapse. Passersby provided first aid and comfort to the many victims scattered in the area shortly after the incident. Public service was a bit slow arriving due to the hour of the day.



## **Space - The Final Frontier..**

I couldn't help chuckling after the last KARS meeting when it was felt we might be able to spot some spectacular Pleiades meteors during the peak for the August shower. The only problem was the high powered outside MV light attached to the building literally blinding most of us and surely ruining faint meteor observing. I jokingly asked if anyone had a revolver so we could shoot it out and was greeted with an “arsenal of accommodation”. No joke! That's what I love about the inland Northwest. For more information concerning radio propagation, visit the ARRL Technical Information Service Propagation page <<http://www.arrl.org/tis/info/propagation.html>>.

## **Did the ULS Ever Work?**

**From the ARRL this month:** Fred Maia, W5YI, spoke about a problem he found with information between the Universal Licensing System (ULS) and the FCC Commission Registration System (CORES) computer systems not being exchanged. Amateurs, he said, are complying with Part 97 rules by keeping the ULS license database up to date, but this information does not find its way into the CORES database. Part 1 of the Rules, Section 1.8002(b)(2), which Maia said most amateurs are unfamiliar with, states that applicants must keep their CORES records current. Amateurs can supply CORES with up-to-date information via the CORES Web page <<https://svartifoss2.fcc.gov/coresWeb/publicHome.do>> or by filling out and submitting FCC Form 161 <<http://wireless.fcc.gov/feesforms/forms.html>>.



One thing for sure, if the FCC tries to send you a letter and it is mailed to your previous mailing address on file and it is returned to the sender because you failed to keep your address current on your license, the FCC will immediately revoke your call letters. Check your current license and if you need a change of address let your VE team know and we will file the necessary paper work for you free of charge if you are an ARRL member. –N7JU

# K7ID REPEATER REPORT

## 146.98MHz. on the Mend

With the unanimous support of the KARS members present at the August KARS meeting a truck load of antennas, new transmission line, connectors, and mounting brackets is on its way to North Idaho for installation as soon as is practical, to replace the temporary lash-up antenna system at the site. In a detailed report also given at the August meeting it was demonstrated that the site is clearly too high to provide reliable low power portable radio service to the members in valleys shadowed just beneath intervening mountains, any one of which would make a better antenna site than the one we are presently using.

Now that the repeater has been installed for a few weeks, it is abundantly clear that **line-of-sight** communication with the peak works full quieting down to about 100 Mw...but that the shadowing effect along the Spokane River, Post Falls city, and even portions of Coeur D Alene city, require a minimum of 10 watts and a mobile antenna to access the site reliably. The temporary antenna, soon to be replaced, is also enclosed within a newly installed 9' chain-link fence wrapped around the tower base and shielding most of the lower portion of the radiating element. Not Good! It is no wonder that we are being heard 50 miles away full quieting. The null fill is almost non-existent I feel. The new antennas will not completely solve this problem as it is a site related characteristic but they will, at least, be optimized so we can move to Phase II to follow.

The Repeater Committee is noodling the installation a 146.38 MHz. (Repeater Input) **voting receiver** installed within plain-sight of uses in the valley below between Wolfs Lodge and Spokane. Its primary function is to accommodate **low power portables**. For those who have not heard of this technique, it consists of a super sensitive VHF receiver listening to the repeater input. When a signal is heard (your audio) it is forwarded to and keys a 5 watt 445MHz link transmitter directed to a mountain top receiver also on 445MHz. Typically this 445MHz. receiver on the hill also doubles as a control link but when a low power repeater input signal is detected, it inserts this audio to the mountain 146.98MHz. repeater output.

Direct signals and voting signals don't get mixed (crash) because we use a different PL tone for the voting receiver. In order to use the main base station we use 100Hz. However if you would like to use a low power portable that is in line-

## K7ID User Codes for 146.98Mhz:

<b>K7ID Repeater Member-User Codes</b>		
CW ID	#6	Forces K7ID CW ID to play.
Voice Annoc.	#4	Plays voice announcement.
DTMF Test	#0	Returns TT as a CW character
PL Override	*73	Disables PL (Resets in 20 sec.)
Anti-Kerchunk	*10	1 second COS for "turn on"
Pull-up RPTR	*45	Only when RPTR is "closed"
Remote on*	*07	Turns on the Linked Station
Remote off *	#7	Turns off the Linked Station
Autopatch on*	*4	When enabled
Autopatch off*	*4	When enabled
<b>*Functions to be added soon    Version 1.0. 08/07</b>		

Feel free to experiment with these initial user codes for the KARS machine. Make sure you have a strong signal into the repeater and that your touch tone pad works on your handheld or microphone. – N7JU

Refreshment Sign-Ups for the rest of the year:  
  
11/12/07 – Marge Miller  
12/10/07 – Everybody (Christmas Pot-Luck)

Deadline for submitting articles, stories, reports, etc., is the 25th of each month for the following month's newsletter.  
  
Three more issue to go before the end of 2007.

of-site to the voting receiver location just program another channel in your portable to: 146.38MHz TX (118.8Hz. Tone) and 146.98MHz. RX. Most modern portables have gobs of extra unused channels. Mine has 500, so I can spare two channels for a diverse “98” operation.

The voting unit requires a simple dual band RF package such as a GE Custom MVP with a VHF receiver and a UHF transmitter installed, a simple diplexer (antenna splitter), and a dual band (V/U) unity gain antenna. The box is about 9"X9"X4" and the receiver can be placed in a very quiet RF environment overlooking the valley below. It will draw about 10 watts on TX and could conceivably be run from solar. It's our plan to install the control receiver and logic before the first snow, then work on the voting receiver. When its ready to go, we just turn it on and test various locations until we find one that works well. Just a thought, but it will solve a lot of our difficulties by providing reliable low power service into our repeater. -N7JU



The three remaining KARS founders gathered for a group picture at the Ice Cream Social held on August 11, 2007 at the Kesson's QITH in Dalton Gardens. Left to right: Walt K7ETJ, Marj WB7WUB, and seated Verda K7UBC.

Verda Seibenthaler K7UBC, one of three founding members of the Kootenai Amateur Radio Society. She is holding two of her many awards: DXCC and Worked all Countries. Verda's other awards include Worked All States and Worked All Zones. She accomplished this with AM Phone and CW. A crew is going to help Verda get up on our repeater. So, members, keep an ear out for this lovely 89 year old lady who gout her first license in 1961.



# Kootenai Amateur Radio Society (KARS) YEAR 2007 MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

{ } New Member: \$12.00 { } Renewal: \$12.00 { } Family Membership: \$18.00  
{ } Information Update Only

**New! Two year membership Rates:**

{ } New Member: \$22.00 { } Renewal: \$22.00 { } Family Membership: \$33.00

## ARE YOU AN ARRL MEMBER? YES NO ( Please Circle One)

CALLSIGN: \_\_\_\_\_ CLASS: \_\_\_\_\_ EXPIRATION: \_\_\_\_\_

FIRST NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ M.I. \_\_\_\_\_ LAST NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS1: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS2: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY: \_\_\_\_\_ STATE: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE NUMBER: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ **OK TO PUBLISH? YES/NO (CIRCLE ONE)**

EMAIL ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_@\_\_\_\_\_

**OK TO PUBLISH EMAIL ADDRESS? YES NO (CIRCLE ONE, PLEASE)**

**DELIVER NEWSLETTER VIA: EMAIL? OR U.S. MAIL? (CIRCLE ONE, PLEASE)**

**NOTE: IF THIS IS A FAMILY MEMBERSHIP, (All members with the same address),  
PLEASE COMPLETE THE FOLLOWING SECTION FOR YOUR FAMILY.**

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ CALL: \_\_\_\_\_ CLASS: \_\_\_\_\_

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ CALL: \_\_\_\_\_ CLASS: \_\_\_\_\_

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ CALL: \_\_\_\_\_ CLASS: \_\_\_\_\_

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ CALL: \_\_\_\_\_ CLASS: \_\_\_\_\_

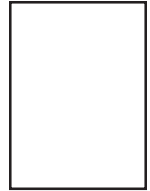
NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ CALL: \_\_\_\_\_ CLASS: \_\_\_\_\_

*RETURN THIS FORM WITH YOUR DUES, (CASH OR CHECK), TO THE KARS TREASURER,  
OR, MAIL TO: KARS TREASURER, P.O. BOX 5222, Coeur D'Alene, ID. 83816.*

(Office use only.) CK: \_\_\_ CSH: \_\_\_ Mbr Spreadsheet: \_\_\_

***PASS THIS ON TO A FRIEND!!!***

**KOOTENAI AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY**  
**P.O. Box 5222**  
**Coeur d'Alene, ID 83816**



## **2007 CLUB OFFICERS**

President: Ed Stuckey, AI7H  
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2nd Vice-President: Larry Telles, K6SPP  
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Secretary: Linda Chamberlain, N7UTK  
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## **Notice**

Propagation is published monthly by the Kootenai Amateur Radio Society (KARS). The club is located in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho and serves the North Idaho and the Spokane, Washington areas.

All opinions expressed in this newsletter are those of the individual contributors and not the radio club as a whole.

KARS operates a voice repeater on 146.98 and a packet repeater on 145.510 Mhz.

Anyone interested in Amateur Radio is welcome to join. Dues are \$12.00 (individual) and \$18.00 for a family membership. Contact the Treasurer if you wish to join.

If you know of anyone interested in joining KARS, you can notify the newsletter editor as to that parties email address. A copy of this newsletter will be send with no obligation to join.

Material can be submitted for publication in Propagation. The deadline for articles, etc., is the 25th of each month for the following month's issue.